

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH NEW DELHI

IA NO. 48 OF 2026

IN

OA NO. 915 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

AMIT KUMAR

....APPLICANT

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

....RESPONDENTS

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*Filed by:*



Amit Kumar  
(Applicant in person)  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 02.02.2026

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REPLY ON BEHALF OF ORIGINAL APPLICANT TO I.A. NO. 48/2026

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the present reply is being filed by the Original Applicant in response to the Interlocutory Application filed by Ilyas & Ors. (hereinafter referred to as "Proposed Impleaders") seeking intervention and protection against eviction from land identified as forest land in the Shamli District.
2. It is submitted at the threshold that the IA is a calculated attempt to derail and delay the restoration of forest land. The Proposed Impleaders have failed to produce any material evidence, such as registered title deeds or revenue records to establish a legal right to occupy the forest khasras in question. The application relies on residency but lacks proof of the legality of such occupation. Consequently, the IA is an attempt to obstruct the environmental mandate of this Hon'ble Tribunal to clear encroachments.
3. The Original Applicant concedes that the affected villagers must be granted a fair opportunity to be heard. Procedural fairness dictates that **before a residential structure is demolished, the occupants must be allowed to present their claims**. If Respondent No. 7 has already conducted such inquiries or individual household-wise physical verifications and can place such evidence on record, then the Proposed Impleaders' claim of being "unheard" becomes untenable and the IA should be dismissed.
4. That the Original Applicant submits that while Respondent No. 7 (Forest Department) has issued eviction notices to the affected villagers, they have done so without placing on record any comprehensive plan for the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of the affected families. It is a settled principle of law, as

reinforced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in various matters, that the right to shelter is an extension of Article 21 and any large-scale eviction must be balanced with a humane R&R policy to prevent total homelessness and loss of dignity.

5. That if the Respondent No. 7 has followed due process including individual assessment and demarcation, the present IA is merely an attempt to create a *fait accompli* to prevent forest restoration. However, if the authorities have acted in a blanket/mechanical manner without a resettlement framework, the Original Applicant prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may direct the State to produce its R&R policy before proceeding with coercive actions.
6. In view of the above, the Original Applicant prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may dismiss the present IA if the Forest Department (Respondent No. 7) proves that individual hearings and surveys were already conducted, **direct Respondent No. 7 to place on record a Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) plan for any displaced persons as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court**, and ensure that the restoration of forest land in Shamli is not indefinitely stayed, balancing environmental protection with the human right to shelter.

#### VERIFICATION

Verified at **New Delhi** on this **2nd** day of **February** 2026 that the contents of the above submission, are correct and true to the best of our knowledge, belief, and official records. No part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed therein.

*Filed by:*



Amit Kumar  
(Applicant in person)

Place: New Delhi

Date: 02.02.2026